

Gidgegram

Established 1978

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PAID
AUSTRALIA

Email: Secretary: Secretary@gidgeagsociety.com.au or Treasurer: treasurer@gidgeagsociety.com.au

Ag Society in full swing, planning for the next Show

An Agricultural Show

At last month's meeting the president emphasised our ambition to continue the tradition to produce a country show which highlights agriculture and horticulture in Gidgegannup and districts. This should not be difficult because our district hosts a great variety of animals. Horses, alpacas, llamas, sheep, cattle, the goats big and small and many more. I have found a few pictures in the archives (2019) to illustrate past years. We encourage all farmers to participate in the show and now is the time to start planning.

Overdue thanks

Regretfully there are two people who have yet to be thanked for their long term contribution to the Agricultural Society.

Julie Aizlewood

Julie retired just after last year's show, having served as secretary for many years. As everyone knows the position of secretary is paramount to any organisation. Julie had a tremendous workload and did a great job, whilst managing a full time job and family commitments. Julie, you have our heartfelt thanks and our best wishes for all future endeavours.

Owen Snook

Owen's position as Animal Steward and Wool Classer will be difficult to fill. As a committee member of the Ag Society, he has also done a momentous amount of work behind the scenes over many years looking after the livestock. Thank you Owen for your service and skills. May you find some time to relax and enjoy life.



Judge Iain Ritchie (R) with finalists in the WA Farriers Championships.



Fine dairy goats parading for the judge



Owen Snook wrapping up after a long day.



Champion Rooster.



MEMBERS

Marcus & Zoe Hemsted
Julie Aizlewood & Family
Collin & Diana Messervy
June & Geoff Quinsee
Helen Shalders
Alison Archer
Carolyn Webster
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Ian Stannard
Steve & Kay Williamson
Barry Howard
Geoff Bowley
Keith Robinson

Special Bonus!
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and receive Free Entry
to the Show

Gidgegannup Agricultural Society Inc.

www.gidgegannup.info/gidgegannup-agricultural-society/



Although every effort to remain totally impartial, the Editor and the individual members of the Gidgegannup Agricultural Society (The Publisher) cannot be made responsible for comments and opinions voiced in letters received.

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Mark Dowman

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From Facebook



With our first week of Pre-Season down, what a fantastic show of support we've had from our keen Bulldogs! Don't forget to come down next week and join in the fun! Open to all Year 3 - Year 6 players.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TUESDAYS - "Back to Basics"

4.00pm – 5.30pm

Every Tuesday afternoon continuing into the season

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FRIDAYS - "Fitness & Skills"

4.30pm – 6.00pm

Until 5th April. Team training and Auskick begins 12th April!

Cr Rod Henderson

Swan Valley, Gidgegannup Ward

I'm here to assist with
your City of Swan issues

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and subscribe to my eNews

0413 496 688

rod.henderson@swan.wa.gov.au


Authorised by R. Henderson 24 Filp Way, West Swan
**CrRodHenderson**

Gidgegannup Recreation Club

A great night was had by all who were present our first **Indoor bowls night** for this year. The bowling was free, you simply had to put your name down in the draw and then find your partner. There was much laughter, cheering and eager listening for advice from a few who knew how to bowl. Our young bowlers quickly picked up the tricks to good bowling and were soon showing us how it is done.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

All booking enquires can be done by email to
bookings@gidgegannuprecclub.com.au

or Contact Carey on, secretary@gidgegannuprecclub.com.au

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Watch this space!

Saturday May 18th – Gidge v's Bullsbrook

After game live band begins

More information coming soon.

COMING EVENTS

Swap Meet

Sunday 7th April

7 am for sellers fee \$10

8 am for buyers entry fee \$2

A sausage sizzle will be available.

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Gidgegannup Football Club

Our 2024 pre-season training is back in full swing as we look to improve on our 2023 season.

Training is Tuesday's and Thursday's starting at 6pm, Percy Cullen Oval (subject to pre-season training plan)

If you are interested in joining the club or just having a kick all new players are encouraged to come down.

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Striving for a circular economy

Birth of a Show

Early colonists settled in the hills beyond Guildford were living in isolation until the road to Newcastle (now Toodyay) was built.

Because of the improved access, Gidgegannup became more populated as the area was surveyed and lots became available for purchase. To expedite the sales, the developers, The Perth Jarrah Mills, registered the name of its subdivision as Hampstead Hills.

The newcomers provided for themselves and they formed a fairly closeknit community with much in common as living was hard. Some started up small mills, cutting the timbers, not cut out previously, by hand. Some cut in the form of railway sleepers, other for fruit cases. A sleeper hewn by hand using a crosscut saw and an adze for shaping, brought in the princely sum of sixpence in the earlier times, later rising to two shillings and sixpence. (i.e. five and twenty five cents respectively).

The new residents, being on either side of the main road, took to displaying their produce on a regular basis for sale to the travellers as they passed by, and to one another. Mainly the ladies of the district grew the produce. This, of course, instigated some friendly rivalry, which led to a group who decided to form a Progress Association to hold such events to be sited on the side of the road.

This was registered as the Hampstead Hills Progress Association, on the 12th March 1946. Forty eight days later,



E. Brookes, R. Cluwa, Brookes Sr., S. Brookes, L. King, C. Kerrish and C. Chandler stand proudly in front of the Gidgegannup Agricultural Hall which theirs and other volunteers labour built out of second hand timber in the mid forties. A number of years later the timber was added to the front of the building and so it remains to this day. The photo is courtesy of Mrs. Miller whose father also helped to build the hall and whose mother Mrs. Miller is the only remaining lady who prepared and served morning and afternoon teas, lunch and supper at the first Gidgegannup Show organised soon after the completion of the Hall.

Builders of the 1946 Hall (Source: Hills Gazette, 23/10/1989)

the Perth Jarrah Mills donated a block of land to the Association on which to hold their Agricultural Shows. This was a great boost to the Association, for soon after an old house was also donated and after it was dismantled and transported to the new grounds, it was modified and re-erected as the Hampstead Hills Hall. A great asset to the growing community.

A bit of history, for more read up on it on the community website gidgegannup.info

SUNDAY SESSIONS
SUN 1 - 4PM



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Gidge Gossips

By Sally Block

At least the weather has cooled down a bit now, but no rain and we really need that. Better all get out there and do the rain dance. Seriously though dams and bores have run dry and the rainwater tanks are getting that way. Maybe State Government will help us out, let's hope so.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I am ignoring the garden. We will lose some plants but in thirty years we have never had such a situation as this with high temperatures and extreme lack of water. Our garden looks worse than when we had a bush fire go through.

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Talking of bush fires, Gidgegannup dodged a bullet this week. We were lucky with the wind blowing the other way and the Swan Valley looking to get a battering. The Volunteer fire brigades and air support went above and beyond to save the situation and worked tirelessly to get the fire under control. They were amazing and deserve the biggest Thank you we have.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

There also appears to be a lot more mitigation of fuel loads and this is essential. Must admit our paddocks present a very low risk and the cows have been incredible manicuring paddocks and laneways. The great thing about the lowlines is they are such laid back creatures that our horses don't mind them at all, although the cows will always take the opportunity to steal any extra hay they can.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Now it has cooled down we are busy tidying up the place. A never ending task and still getting on top of bushfire damage from 3 years ago. Getting there though. A job not helped by the growing number of kangaroos who come in to find feed and drink from the water troughs. They are even up around the house eating the little bit of green left on the lawns. Can't blame them though. The water table seems to be rising and more green is appearing.

I am looking on this summer as an opportunity to replant the garden and start planning for this and not mourn the plants that have not made it. The deciduous trees have been amazing and thank goodness for that shade in the garden.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I was a bit worried about our older goldie as he was having a hard time with the heat. The dogs had air con on at night. We didn't, but their need was greater than ours. It is amazing how much water the livestock drink when it is that hot. Fortunately the bore held out and the flow has picked up in the last couple of weeks.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The horses have been great as well preferring the shade from trees rather than in the shelters. So important to have trees, they cool the whole place down.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Planning for the Small Farm Field Day is well under way. Our new Chairperson is putting her special print on the day with an amazing taste in hats. Seems we are going to be wearing them this year on the day. No more information but the theme this year is all things Fungi!!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Anyway looks as though it is going to be a great day and we will save the surprises for the day!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

And so, thinking of my garden

"Weep not for the days gone by, but leave them where they buried lie. Stand not in idle gaze dreaming of future days. But work and play in rain and shine and use the present that is thine."

In other words – "Make the Best of it"! Happy Easter



Easter lilies

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GIDGEGANNUP PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

gpa@gidgegannup.info – www.gidgegannup.info

Next Meetings: 18th March, 15th April, 20th May and the 17th June 2024 at 7.30pm at the Agricultural Hall.

GIDGESTOCK: – We held the Forum we advertised. Thanks to all those who attended, over thirty community members, with differing views on Gidgestock and how they saw its' future. Steve Mitcham gave a short history of Gidgestock and then discussion was open for those present to tell us why they loved Gidgestock and some to tell us how they thought it could be improved to have less impact on the neighbours.

Some points I would make, the City of Swan last year contacted all the near neighbours to see what complaints there were and only received one negative response. The Organisers do issue free tickets to neighbours and to residents of Reen Road and these can be used by themselves or gifted. The event is held under an Event Licence from the City of Swan, which imposes certain conditions. The police have not had a single complaint in the last five years.

After about an hour's discussion it was clear that issues were:

Noise – from the music which like all good music festivals had a fair amount of bass. Steve had talked to his sound people and it was felt that some of the “bam” could be taken out of this to mitigate the sound, particularly at the more sensitive times.

Traffic Management – this team undertook to ensure that visitors vehicles did not block the entrance to properties. They were also going to have some information on their fb page re. the care that needs to be taken driving in rural areas with the narrow roads we have. GPA are going to talk to the City re. improvements to the shoulders of Reen Road to improve passing opportunities.

Antisocial behaviour – It appears that at times the traffic queue to enter the grounds can take a little time so strategic toilets will be placed for the convenience of those who have to make a visit in a hurry.

Motion: (i) The GPA await feedback from the 2024 Gidgestock to assess the impact of the above actions.

(ii) The GPA write to the City regarding the consideration of improvements to the shoulders of Reen Road to allow for more passing opportunities for larger vehicles.

NORTH STONEVILLE UPDATE: On 8th March, 2024 Satterley and the Anglican Church chose to take their North Stoneville townsite plan to a Full State Tribunal appeal hearing.

Satterley received another 3 months to sort out 'discrepancies' in the plan - and to calculate costs to defend it. The Tribunal ordered that Save Perth Hills get copies of Satterley and the WAPC's planned approaches for a Final hearing. Should this fail there would be the option to appeal to the Supreme Court.

FOGO BINS: At the Council Meeting of 14th February, 2024 Cr Henderson submitted the following Notice of Motion: That Council resolve to:

1. Exclude the suburb of Gidgegannup from receiving a FOGO service as part of the City's FOGO implementation program.
2. The City of Swan undertake a review of the proposed FOGO service in the rural areas and bring it back to a future briefing of council

Reason for Motion (provided by Cr Henderson)

1. Residents have sought that they be removed from the program as they can use alternative disposal methods.
2. The widely distributed and relatively small population will cause elevated cost implications for the City and ratepayers.

RESOLVED (7/5) TO: That Council resolve to:

1. Exclude the suburb of Gidgegannup from receiving a FOGO service as part of the City's FOGO implementation program. For: Cr Catalano, Cr Dorn, Cr Henderson, Cr Johnson, Cr Jones, Cr Singh and Cr Zannino

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2. The City of Swan undertake a review of the proposed FOGO service in the rural areas and bring it back to a future briefing of council. Against: Cr Bowman, Cr Howlett, Cr Knight, Cr Miles and Mayor Richardson

TELSTRA – COMMUNICATIONS GENERALLY;

Telecommunications And Disaster Resilience – Community Forum. With Senator Linda Reynolds, CSC, Senator for Western Australia and Hon. David Coleman MP, Shadow Minister for communications.

Join the Federal Shadow Minister for Communications, Hon David Coleman MP and representatives from telecommunications providers for a Q&A to discuss telecommunications and disaster resilience in the Hills.

Monday, 8th April, 2024, 6.30pm at Mundaring Arena, Bendigo Room, 50 Mundaring Weir Road, Mundaring.

RSVP: SenatorReynolds@aph.gov.au

DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLANS; It appears that the State Government is funding Drought Resilience Plans across the regions. Might we point out that Giddegannup is suffering from drought. We have no scheme water, we are high fire risk and many people do not have the water supplies available to tackle bush fire now. It was noted that it is now taking 2-3 weeks to get potable water delivered into Giddegannup, such is the demand.

Enquiry as to whether the roadside concrete fire water tanks are full? These are filled by the Fire Brigades.

Also comment that Resilience planning funding is manifestly inadequate, it will cover some planning but not the practical execution or equipment needed.

We wrote to Jessica Shaw:

It was noted that the Cook and Albanese Labor Governments

are providing \$900,000 to implement drought resilience plans across regional Western Australia to help communities prepare for and manage the impacts of dry seasons.

We believe that quite a lot of the Outer Metropolitan areas are also suffering the effects of the drought and extremely high temperatures that have affected Western Australia this year.

Many people in Giddegannup are experiencing shortage of water with the low winter rainfall (just over 500mm). This has resulted in run off dams running dry, rainwater tanks also under pressure, bores are also running dry. If we run out of water in our normal storage areas, we have to purchase water and there is a 2-3 weeks wait to get potable water delivered to Giddegannup. The cost is also high.

We have no Scheme water so have to rely on our own resources and these are severely under pressure for many. We are high fire risk and many people do not have the water supplies available to tackle bush fire now. We are uncertain whether our roadside concrete fire water tanks are full.

Also a comment was made that the Resilience planning funding is manifestly inadequate, it will cover some planning but not the practical execution or equipment needed.

I seem to remember some years ago that residents of areas such as ours, were given tax benefits if they purchased extra storage tanks so that they could survive dry seasons. Could some consideration be given to this. We have no scheme water so there is no back up to our storage tanks/dams/bores. Most people do not have enough water for gardens or vegetable plots and livestock do drink a considerable amount of water at this time of year.

The Hills do need some assistance at times like this.

Response: Thank you for your enquiry regarding Drought

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Resilience Plans funding. We will forward your enquiry to the relevant government department and ask some questions for you. Please bear with us until we receive a response. As soon as we have some more information we will be in touch.

VERSION 3 OF WOOROLOO BUSH FIRE REVIEW;

<https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-02/update-on-the-government-response-to-the-wooroloo-review-february-2024.pdf>

EMRC COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – UPDATES RED HILL WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY;

Aside from myself there were only 3 other Community attendees. A resident and her son who live on the SE corner of the site (off Roland Road), and a resident from Hidden Valley to the South of the EMRC site. Neither of them appeared to have any major issues with the EMRC. The meeting was well attended by EMRC personnel, approximately ten people, including Marcus Geisler- CEO, Tanya Beinhauer – Site Manager and Mike Turner – Site Engineer.

The site tour was in a mini bus with a drive around most of the current operations areas. It is quite a few years since I did one of these tours and there have been a number of changes including changes in current landfill cell and a FOGO processing area already handling FOGO materials from Bayswater & Bassendean. Mundaring and Swan are due to start around July 2024. The processing looked similar to the existing green waste area, with the end product being an Australian Standard mulch product. They indicated they have a market for this product with the State Government for use with the ongoing Metronet project. Revegetation of waste areas continues with considerable regrowth since my last visit. The Ibis scavenger population seemed even larger than I remembered.

After some refreshments, the meeting ran from around 6pm to 7pm with power point presentations by Marcus Geisler and the Site Operations Manager. These covered the following topics:

- General overview of the EMRC direction and Sustainability Strategy (this strategy can be viewed on the EMRC website).
- FOGO (as discussed above).
- Woodside departure. Woodside terminated the Hydrogen gas production demonstration project. EMRC understands this was primarily because of increasing costs and that the project had a limited life as a demonstration.
- Operations overview Hazelmere Eco Park. This included Circular Energy Recovery, timber processing, Syngas and biochar, collections and the new waste transfer station. The

waste transfer station at Hazelmere is a new build to handle collection and transfer of general waste to the new East Rockingham Waste to Energy Plant, due to open for business around June 2024.

- Red Hill ARCr Air Pollution Control Residue Project. This project will accept the residual air scrubbing product from the Kwinana Waste to Energy Plant when it starts up (estimated October 2024 – several years late). Red Hill expects to accept around 3 truckloads per day plus 4 cement trucks per week (to create a slurry and contain the ash) in a specific lot 10 waste cell.

- Red Hill new Stage 3 Class IV general waste cell product. Red Hill has the only Class IV waste cell in the Metro area and the existing cell is coming towards the end of its life. Design and construction of a new cell is expected to take somewhere between one & two years and it planned to be located centrally on the Eastern side of current operational area. The current cell is located in the SW area of the EMRC facility.

- A second wheel wash facility for trucks is still planned, but no timescale was given.

- Revegetation, surface water and bore water monitoring is ongoing. No issues highlighted.

GIDGEGANNUP SHOWGROUNDS PLAY SPACE UPGRADE – The City of Swan advises that it will shortly commence the upgrade of Gidgegannup Show Grounds Play Space in Gidgegannup. The work is being undertaken as part of the Play Space Replacement Program.

Works will commence on Monday, March 25 between the hours of 7am and 4pm and will be substantially completed within six (6) weeks of commencement. The works may be extended in the event of inclement weather, contractor's availabilities and/or unforeseen conditions.

To accommodate the works and to ensure the safety of the Construction staff and the general public, the area will be fenced off for the duration of the works.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the works please do not hesitate to contact the Project Manager, Joe on 08 9267 9267 or projectmanagement@swan.wa.gov.au.

REDHILL AUDITORIUM NEW TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN – This appears to have been implemented due to safety issues raised.

LPS 18 – OUT FOR CONSULTATION

https://www.swan.wa.gov.au/awcontent/Web/Documents/Final-Agenda-Ordinary_Meeting_of_Council_-March.pdf
Starts at Page 99. Out for consultation for 90 days.

Renewing Hope Counselling in Gidgegannup

Life throws many struggles at one point or another. Although it is a normal course of life we often find it difficult to navigate through what is going on, let alone bear it on our own. Sometimes it helps to have someone you can learn to trust and share your burden with. There is a space where you will not feel judged, only heard and together we can work out a plan to help you get unstuck and move forward to achieving a more meaningful life.

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Small Farm Field Day hosts the Honey Festival



As a large part of the Small Farm Field Day is the Honey Festival here is some information about their activities all through May.

May is Honey Month!

Are you curious about bees or how honey is produced? Have you considered beekeeping?

May is time to learn about beekeeping, tastings at farmers markets, workshops and Honey inspired menus. It's all found at: <https://www.bicwa.com.au/honey-month>.

If you have a honey/bee themed idea you would like to present during May please let us know.

Chef Judge – Jo from Café Mojo is joining us again. This time we are hosting a Bake off for businesses to be held at The Abbey restaurant on Friday 10th May. If you would like to take part and need more information, please send us an email bees2honeywa@gmail.com or phone Leilani 0428290029. We are also inviting local schools to participate in a cooking competition. If you think your school would be interested please email or phone as above.

Sunday 26th May 2024, 9am to 4pm, join us at the Honey Festival, held within the grounds of the Gidgegannup Small Farm Field Day.

<https://www.bicwa.com.au/the-honey-festival> Competitions

include: honey, honey mead, & beeswax. Find entry forms at the above website.

Activities with the team from Science Alive, learn about beekeeping with 3 talks spread across the day from 10am. There will be other talks and workshops across the day.

There is so much more, but best of all, you can meet WA's beekeepers and see bees close up in our observation hive.

Ensure you like our Facebook and Instagram pages to keep up



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Noble Falls guided bushwalk

Join Mike Cook from Bushcraft WA on a walk through a beautiful patch of local bush.



Come along on this guided bushwalk to touch, smell, taste, see, hear, learn and experience some of what your local environment has to offer.

This bushwalk is all about encouraging hands on engagement with natural environments and bush resources including useful bush plants for food, soap, medicine, string, and fire, wildlife tracking, and general ecological awareness.

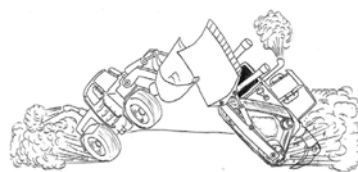
Suitable for adults and young people aged 12 and over.

Meeting point: Noble Falls picnic area carpark (opposite Noble Falls Tavern)

Location: Noble Falls, 2621 Toodyay Rd, Gidgegannup

Date and time: Sunday, April 07, 2024, 8am - 10am

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Ready, set, grow! Applications now open for the City of Swan's Free Trees and Plants Giveaway

The City of Swan's Free Trees and Plants Giveaway is back for 2024, with tens of thousands of native seedlings up for grabs.

The program has expanded over the last two years to include rural and urban residents, giving everyone a chance to add to the City's urban canopy.

Applications are now open through the City's website.

There are more than 45,000 native plants and trees available overall, with different species of native seedlings to be distributed based on the size of each resident's property.

Tanya Richardson, City of Swan Mayor, said the City had decided to include urban residents in the giveaway once again after the positive response last year.

"Extending the Free Trees and Plants Giveaway to residents in our urban areas has been well received and is helping us improve our tree canopy in these areas," Mayor Richardson said.

"The City works with Trillion Trees – a community nursery in Hazelmere – to grow the native, waterwise seedlings for our residents.

"The native varieties are a hardy, low-maintenance choice which enhance our urban forest, support building shaded spaces and create habitats for biodiversity."

Denise True, Trillion Trees Australia CEO, said the giveaway was a fantastic chance for people to make a widespread impact on their community.

"Our staff and volunteers are extremely passionate about growing seedlings, restoring our urban landscapes and increasing tree canopy which can reduce heat effects in our suburbs by up to 10 per cent," Ms True said.

"Working with the City of Swan helps us continue our



mission and we're able to see the effects every day as we drive through the City to the nursery."

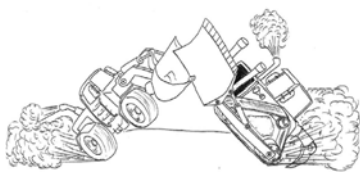
Urban residents – those who live on properties smaller than 4000sqm – are eligible for an urban pack, containing a pre-selected assortment of six native species, suitable for smaller properties. It includes a mix of shrubs, strappy-leaved ground covers and climbers.

Rural residents – those living on properties larger than 4000sqm – are eligible for a rural pack. These residents need to select their top 10 species preferences from the City's species list.

Applications are open until Sunday, March 31, 2024, but residents are encouraged to apply early to avoid missing out.

To learn more and apply, visit www.swan.wa.gov.au/freetrees.

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GIDGEGANNUP AND SURROUNDING.

Soil preparation and lack of dry feed

After going through some of the previous issues I think that this summer has to be the worst in my 44 years in the Hills.

First the cyclonic storm that hit us and caused a lot of damage, and now the recent bushfire that has ravaged a lot of land, big holdings and small.

We sustained some fencing damage, plus fences which had to be cut to allow heavy machinery and fire units to have safe access to the fire.

I was watching the fixed wing planes doing their "thing" on the Tuesday afternoon. I reckon these blokes must either have no nerves or nerves of steel. Not a lot of clearance between the tree tops and their planes.

Sadly, the two big water bomber tankers seemed to be just there for appearance sake as they flew around and around for about two hours before dropping their load of water. More questions than answers about, I'm afraid.

Well, this season so far, has a been a very dry affair with little to next to no rain for the year.

Just a few spits to the square metre, not even enough to settle the dust for more than a few minutes. But when the rain does come, of course, being farmers, we only want enough to soak into the ground, and not cause any surface damage in the form of run-off or erosion.

With April almost upon us, it is time to consider liming and fertiliser applications to pasture paddocks. As I have mentioned in previous rantings, a soil testing kit is a good tool to start with to find out what the soil profile is in need of.

These kits are not free, but the small cost is certainly justified, and can be sourced from most agricultural outlets.

If you have thought about the application of lime, but haven't gone down this path, then a little research may be beneficial.

There a few types of lime available, with application rates varying greatly. From a few hundred kilos to two to three tonnes to the hectare.

My preference is for the former. I find it is a product that



activates quickly once it is spread. Our Hills countryside, being a mix of gravel, clay and sand soils does need that extra boost for the growing season, and in particular pot ash. These soils are generally deficient in this product. A further boost would be the adding of trace elements to the mix.

For the best results, top dressing each year will give healthy plant growth, and by using this rather rough rule of thumb formula

Trace elements once every five years, Sup-Pot (3:1, 3:2 etc) alternative with Sup Phos in between.

This will go a long way to producing healthy pasture, healthy soil profile, and the much forgotten fertiliser history of the property. In addition to all of this, grazing animals will also be benefiting.

With the extremes of heat we have had this summer, it may appear that there is still enough dry feed on the ground for livestock to be sustained from it. Generally, "wrong".

Even though there has been little rain to decrease the nutrient value of the dry feed, the long hot summer sun helps to deteriorate the dry feed and the grasses and clovers have been baked, and all that is left, is not much. Whether it is hard feeding or hay, that is being fed out, it is important that livestock are kept in the best possible condition.

The massive downside to feeding out hay this year is the lack availability. Never have I seen so little around to be sold.

Around the Paddock
by The Farmer

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Where: Gidgegannup Agricultural Hall

Fees: \$20 per family per term for consumables

Playgroup WA membership - \$35 Annually per child for insurance purposes

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For more info contact us on 95746054 or 95746071

CWA GIDGEGANNUP BRANCH

Ladies are you free on Wednesdays?

Country Women's Association meets Wednesdays at the CWA Hall, Gidge Showgrounds from 10am.

You don't have to be a 'Country' woman, and you certainly don't have to be able to cook or knit.

Just come along and have a good time with a great bunch of other local ladies.

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Piece of local history lost in Red Hill bushfire

A cottage rich with local history has been destroyed in a bushfire which tore through Wandoo Heights nature reserve.

The fire started in Red Hill about 12.40pm on Tuesday, March 19, covering 650 hectares over the next 24 hours.

Easterly winds pushed the blaze towards Wandoo Heights, 22ha of largely virgin bushland that was gifted to the City of Swan in 1988.

No homes have been reported lost thanks to a huge firefighting effort involving volunteers, career firefighters and aerial support.

But sadly, the fire reached Wandoo Heights and razed the cottage beloved by many in the Swan community.

The cottage was previously owned by Olive Gear, Adela Hyde and Harry Hyde, the former chaplain at Guildford Grammar School.

The trio acquired the bushland property in 1960 for its educational and environmental values.

They built the cottage with the help of Guildford Grammar School students.

Sadly, Mr Hyde drowned in 1962 while rescuing a student on an excursion to the coast.

But Ms Gear and Ms Hyde continued their work and maintained the property with the help of volunteers.

They also set about improving access to the bushland so that people could experience it without causing damage.

It quickly became a popular destination for hikers and people wanting to see a wide range of wildflowers.

In 1988, with maintenance becoming too difficult for the owners, they entrusted it to the City.

The late Grant MacKinnon, a well-respected City of Swan staff member, was instrumental in keeping the property in fantastic condition over the next three decades.

A memorial bench and plaque were installed at Wandoo Heights in tribute to Mr MacKinnon who passed away in 2018.

The memorial bench and plaque are still standing after this week's bushfire, albeit scorched.

Tanya Richardson, City of Swan Mayor, said it was a poignant moment for many City staff and local residents.

"Wandoo Heights is a special place with a special history and although the bushland can regrow, the cottage cannot," Mayor Richardson said.

"That property has been maintained with so much care over the years and it's sad to see a piece of local history lost.

"Once we have the all-clear, our staff will go into the area and start assessing the environmental impacts of this fire."

The Red Hill bushfire was downgraded to a Watch and Act just after 4pm on Wednesday, March 20.

Courtesy City of Swan website



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Changes to the Gidgegram

The Gidgegram is not paying for itself, so the Gidgegannup Agricultural Society has to find new ways to continue to publish.

Community Notices

We can no longer subsidise the community groups who have Notices basically advertising only their contacts and their name. Notices are usually set in a box or set up like a flyer with graphics. An example would be the annual AGM.

From next month (May edition) the not-for-profit groups will be charged, however at a 15% discount rate. All groups will have their contact details listed on the community numbers page 19.

Interesting stories are free

For more interesting reading, it is recommended that someone in your group send a small story, preferably with a photo, telling us about your activities for the month. This will help our readers understand what your group is about. There is no extra cost to the group for this editorial.

Contact numbers will be referred to page 19 at the end of your story. If you use facebook then you only need to send us the same information, remember facebook posts last a few hours. The Gidgegram gives you a month's exposure and it is delivered to all letterboxes in the Gidge postal area plus Stoneville, Wooroloo, Wundowie and Chidlow.

Sponsorships

Unfortunately the Gidgegram is not eligible to receive a grant so we are seeking sponsorships from the community to keep us afloat. Any sponsorships would be gratefully received.

Memberships

The Gidgegannup Agricultural Society invites you to become a valuable member.

As the years have passed our membership has diminished, many elderly members have retired and new residents have

not been approached to replenish our membership.

There are many benefits to becoming a member: it is cheap at \$30 per family and only \$15 for a single person, for this you get free entry to the annual Gidge Show and you can have your say at the AGM, you are helping to keep the Gidge Show going and you get your name on the front cover of the Gidgegram!

Advertising Rates

Advertising rates have not been increased for many years and we have tried to keep these low to give our local advertisers special rates to keep businesses 'local'.

The committee is now looking to see how we can keep the rates as low as possible. We are also keen to attract more businesses to advertise. Any changes will be published in coming edition.

We must give our thanks to the many businesses who have been so loyal to us over the years, we value you.

Sporting Groups

We know our readers would like to see more sport in the 'Gram' especially your fixtures for the season, registration dates etc. If you supply us with these as text and photos of teams/games as a story it will be free of charge, however posters and flyers as such are advertising and will be charged for.

Advertising Information

Every month the Gidgegram is uploaded to the community website: gidgegannup.info, advertisers can download an Advertising Info/Booking form from the website, fill out the details and send to the editor, or email editor and ask to have one sent to you

Editor sandrafayeharms@gmail.com

Treasurer treasurer@gidgeagsociety.com.au

The editor will place your advertisement after the booking is received and we know where to invoice to and for how long you wish to advertise. We will be invoicing monthly, unless pre-paid.

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Children attending Primary & Secondary schools are included in Family Membership.

Child 1 - Name & Date of Birth:.....

Child 2 - Name & Date of Birth:

Child 3 - Name & Date of Birth:

(If necessary, attach additional Family Members separately.)

Membership fees: Family: \$30.00 Single: \$15.00

Applications for Membership will be considered at the next Committee Meeting of the Society

Agricultural Society 2024 Committee

President: Marcus Hemsted

Snr Vice President: Hugh Burges

Jnr Vice President: June Quinsee

Treasurer: Collin Messervy

Secretary: Carolyn Webster

Committee: Helen Shalders, Esme Caine, Janet Prudham, Steve and Kay Williamson, Janelle Burges, Alison Archer, Sandra Harms, Jean Witcombe, Fiona Faulkner and Judy Wilson.

Join up - become a member

The annual Gidge Show gives our community an opportunity to develop a sense of belonging and a chance to showcase what we have to offer both locals and visitors. A large membership is vital to keep this event on the map. The 2024 committee will have a lot to do and finding new members to support us is a priority, so if you have a few hours to spare, please become a member or renew your membership and let the committee know.

Thanks to our SPONSORS

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Gidge Rural

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 Bushfire Recovery Team0438 242 356
 bushfirerecoverygroup@swan.wa.gov.au
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GIDGEGANNUP COMMUNITY WEBSITE
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 President Peter Jensen.....0402 910 707

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 Gordon & Esme Caine.....0403 056 019

GIDGEGANNUP MEN'S SHED
 Andrew Brine - Chairperson:..... president@gidgegannupmensshed.org.au
 Barbara Laurin - V/President: sponsorship@gidgegannupmensshed.org.au
 Andrew Simpson - Treasurer:..... treasurer@gidgegannupmensshed.org.au
 Bob Bristow - Secretary:secretary@gidgegannupmensshed.org.au
GIDGEGANNUP PLAY GROUP.....gidgegplaygroup@gmail.com
 Enrolment Officer Larissa Dundon0407 471 400

GIDGEGANNUP SCOUT GROUP
 Donna Feehan Scout Leader.....9573 6707
 Stephen Inouye Cub Scout Leader.....9578 3242

WILDFLOWER SOCIETY
 Vice-President - Fran Kininmonth.....9478 3384

GIDGEGANNUP PONY CLUB
 President Jan Lawrie.....0402 760 860 gidgepcpresident@outlook.com
 Secretary Kellie McCrum.....0437 886 014gidgepcsecretary@outlook.com

GIDGEGANNUP EQUESTRIAN ASSN
 President, Tracey Dow.....0412 778 343
 Secretary, Sonia Laidley.....0413 242 981

GIDGEGANNUP DRESSAGE CLUB
 President - Marjorie Stanger.....9295 1403 or 0407 089 056
 Secretary - Vera Sulc0407 201 907

RETHINK EASTLINK
 Dr Jennifer Albert0423 181 401

MORANGUP PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
 Chairperson: - Daryl Cooper..... chair@morangupmpa.com.au
 Hall Hire - Leoni Carnaby... lcarnaby@ymail.com.....0472 975 593
 www.morangupmpa.com.au


MORANGUP VOLUNTEER BUSH FIRE BRIGADE
 Captain- Jeff Venncaptainmvbfb@gmail.com
 Secretary- Sharon Gamblesecretarymvbfb@gmail.com
 MVBFB meet every 3rd Saturday of the month at 5.30pm

REGAL HILL WATER SUPPLY ASS INC
 President John Morrell.....0409 575 948
 Treasurer Sam Earl.....0491 273 194
 Secretary Gabrielle Elkins.....08 9572 9020

Don't forget to update Community Numbers

Due to changes in telephone services and NBN connections, many people have cancelled their landlines.

If your details have changed please send new details to sandrafayeharms@gmail.com

	★ GENES & JEANS ★	
	Artificial insemination of beef & dairy cattle Herds or house cows	Jean Witcombe 0478 037 315 Jeremy Jeans 0450 366 530 ABN: 39 246 840 879
	5370 Phillips Road, Mundaring WA 6073	Billing Details BSB: 633 000 Account: 193 665 304

Autumn is here

Some options to consider for
your next breeding program

House cows



Ayrshire



Guernsey



Holstein



Illawarra



Jersey

Beef



Angus



Limousin



Wagyu

Compact



Dexter



Square Meater



Lowline

Trending



Speckle Park



Highland



Belted Galloway

Artificial breeding gives cattle owners in the Hills the ultimate flexibility. Without owning a bull, you can breed one breed or style of cattle, or several. Within a specific breed and with suitable notice, you can use several different bulls in the same season to compare results.

For further details, please contact

Jeremy 0450 366 530
Jean 0478 037 315